

Applying to study a
postgraduate qualification
in the UK

UCAS





Fishing village homes, Dorset – England

What is UCAS?

UCAS is an independent charity providing information, advice, and admissions services to inspire and facilitate educational progression.

We provide lots of information, advice, and guidance on the benefits of studying in the UK, how to choose a course, and how to apply, at ucas.com/postgraduate.

We work with higher education providers to ensure the information and advice we provide on our website is accurate, relevant, and designed to give you all you need to make a fully-informed decision about whether postgraduate study is right for you.

Our new

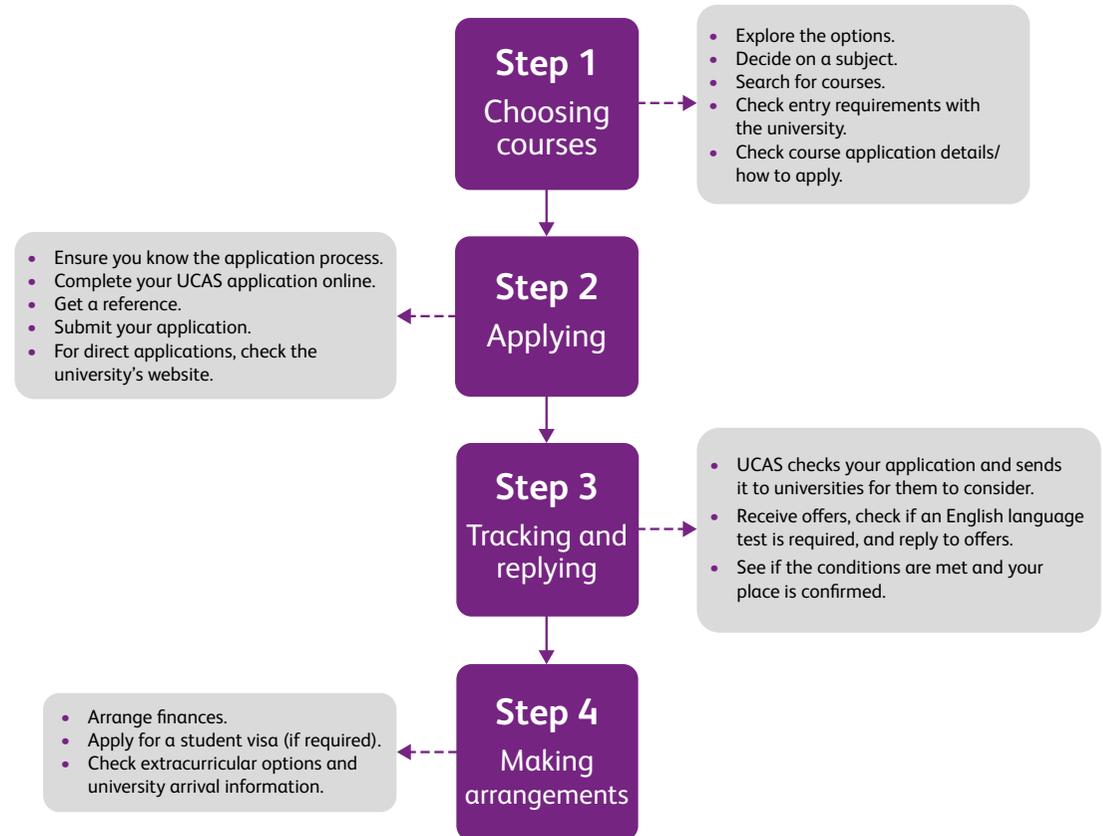
search tool

Use our search tool (digital.ucas.com/search) to browse over 21,000 postgraduate courses, and more than 59,000 study options. Simply register in the search tool to shortlist and compare courses, and save your searches.



How to apply

There are a number of different ways to apply for a postgraduate course in the UK. Check with your chosen university or college how to apply. If your course provider uses UCAS Postgraduate or UKPASS, you'll need to follow steps one, two, and three. Complete them online through the UCAS website – ucas.com – which also has information on the arrangements you'll need to make for step four.



Why study in the UK?

The UK has a long history of welcoming international students into diverse, creative, and multicultural universities and colleges. Here is what you can expect:

Choice and quality

- With over 430 universities and colleges offering more than 21,000 postgraduate courses, the UK has a course of study to suit everyone.
- UK postgraduate degree courses are often very specialised, so you can focus on your chosen subject from the first day.
- The qualification awarded at the end of your course will be recognised and respected throughout the world, as all UK higher education qualifications meet strict academic standards.
- There's a mix of cosmopolitan cities and countryside villages all over England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. Check out our regional guides in the benefits of studying in the UK section of ucas.com/postgraduate to find out more.

Value and improved career prospects

- Studying in the UK can be cheaper than in other countries – save time and money by studying a one-year master's course, compared to two-year courses in other countries.
- UK courses provide you with world-class teaching, enhance your knowledge of the English language, and help you develop great skills for success in the global workforce.
- UK education is recognised by employers, universities, and governments worldwide.
- UK universities are often ranked among the top universities in the world.



TIP: Every year, over 228,000 people from outside the UK apply to study in the UK





Roman Baths, Bath – England

Types of postgraduate study

Taught or research?

A taught master's degree includes some research, but the emphasis is on learning by teaching. This is best for people who like to learn through classes and seminars.

For a master's by research, you'll be trained in research methods, then expected to do a substantial research project. This type of course is best for people who prefer independent study.

Part-time or full-time?

The majority of UK postgraduate students study part-time, whereas the full-time market is predominantly made up of international students. If you'll be studying in the UK with a Tier 4 visa, you can only study full-time.

Distance learning

If you choose to take on distance learning, you will be supplied with resources and assigned a tutor, but all your time will be spent learning at home. The main advantages of this mode of study are the cost savings and flexibility.

Find out more about what types of course you can study at ucas.com/postgraduate.

Fees, funding, and bursaries

Postgraduate tuition fees vary widely across different course providers – you can see how much they are when you search for courses. Tuition fees normally range from around £4,900 to over £30,000 per year, with an average of around £11,000.

You could be eligible for a loan of up to £10,000 from the UK government. You can use this money however you like – towards your tuition fees, living costs, or other costs associated with your studies.

There are other sources of funding you can access too, such as scholarships, UK Research Councils, and charitable trusts.

Find out more about the different funding options, and how and where to apply for them, in the postgraduate fees and funding section of ucas.com/postgraduate.



Avon Gorge, Clifton Suspension Bridge, Bristol – England

Visas and English language requirements

Unless you're an EEA or Swiss national, you'll need a Tier 4 student visa to study in the UK. Once you've been offered a place on a course, your university will be able to advise you on how to apply for your student visa from UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) – for more information, see www.gov.uk/tier-4-general-visa/overview.

Universities and colleges advise all applicants what standard of English is required for their courses. Most course providers will ask you to demonstrate proficiency in English, or to take an approved English language test if English is not your first language.

Visit the university or college's website, or contact its admissions or international office, to find out which English language tests they will accept. They will also advise you which language tests are needed when applying for a student visa, if you need one. You may not need to take the test before you apply, but you will normally need to meet English language requirements before your place can be confirmed.

 **TIP:** From April 2015, the UK government introduced an additional charge for people from outside the UK, which most Tier 4 applicants are required to pay. Once you have paid, you are entitled to free health services from the National Health Service (NHS) during your stay in the UK.

What is an SELT? Do I need one?

You can take a wide range of English language tests to meet this requirement, but if you require a student visa to study a degree or international foundation programme at a UK university or college, you may be asked to take a Secure English Language Test, or SELT, rather than any other English test.

An SELT is an English test that has been approved by UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI), and can only be taken at an approved SELT test centre. For a full list of approved tests and centres, go to www.gov.uk and search 'approved English language tests'.



Moving to and living in the UK

Most UK universities have an orientation week before your studies start, so you can explore your new home, settle in, meet new friends, and complete any administrative tasks related to your move (such as registering with your local doctor).



TIP: If you are applying for a Tier 4 student visa, you will need to show that you have enough money to meet your living costs.

UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) estimate that you will need £1,265 per month for living costs if you are studying in London, or £1,015 per month for living costs* if you are studying anywhere else in the UK.

Visit university websites for more detailed information.

Do visa applicants need to take a tuberculosis (TB) test?

If you are spending more than six months in the UK, and you're from one of the countries listed at www.gov.uk/tb-test-visa, you'll need to take a TB test. You'll be given a chest x-ray and, if your test shows you don't have TB, you'll receive a certificate, which you need to include with your visa application.

How to apply

You can apply for up to ten courses at the same time, making the application process much quicker.

You can use UKPASS to apply for some (but not all) postgraduate courses. Check the UCAS Postgraduate search tool at digital.ucas.com/search for specific details on how to apply for courses you're interested in.

If you need to apply through UKPASS, you'll need to register to use Apply – our online application service. Your application doesn't have to be completed all at once – you can save your progress and sign back in at any time to add to it. For an in-depth explanation of what to include at each stage, follow our step-by-step guide to filling in your application.

Our website – ucas.com/postgraduate – has lots of information to help you decide if postgraduate study is right for you, as well as how to apply and what to expect when you move here to study. You may also find these other websites useful:

- www.ukcisa.org.uk
- www.educationuk.org
- www.international.studentcalculator.org
- www.prepareforsuccess.org.uk

*Accurate as of November 2017



The Shard, London – England

Bullring Shopping Centre, Birmingham – England

ucas.com/postgraduate

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New Barn Lane
Cheltenham
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United Kingdom

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